



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

⑪ Publication number:

0 212 339
A2

⑫

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

⑬ Application number: 86110290.3

⑭ Int. Cl. 4: B29D 22/00, B29C 49/06,
B65D 1/02

⑮ Date of filing: 21.04.83

⑯ Priority: 22.04.82 JP 67780/82

⑰ Date of publication of application:
04.03.87 Bulletin 87/10

⑱ Publication number of the original application in
accordance with Art.78 EPC: 0 092 979

⑲ Designated Contracting States:
CH DE FR GB IT LI NL

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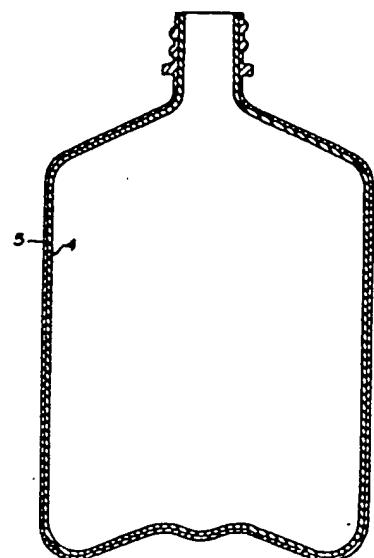
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㉓ Bottle-shaped container.

㉔ A hollow two-layer blow-moulded bottle-shaped container having one layer (4 or 7) formed of a biaxially orientated polyethylene terephthalate resin and the other layer (5 or 6) formed of a mixture of polyethylene terephthalate resin and 5 to 50% by weight of a xylene derivative polyamide resin. In this manner, the gas barrier property of the container is enhanced.

FIG. 1.



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Bottle-shaped Container

This invention relates to a hollow blow-molded bottle-shaped container of a biaxially oriented polyethylene terephthalate resin.

A polyethylene terephthalate resin, hereinafter referred to as "PET", has a variety of excellent properties and characteristics. In order to effectively perform the excellent properties and characteristics of the PET, a bottle-shaped container of the PET is mostly biaxially oriented without exception.

Although the conventional hollow blow-molded bottle-shaped container of the biaxially oriented PET effectively performs a variety of properties and characteristics as described above, the container does not always sufficiently exhibit a gas barrier property.

In order to supplement the insufficient gas barrier property of the bottle-shaped container of the PET, it is heretofore considered to provide a hollow blow-molded bottle-shaped container of a biaxially oriented PET having a multilayer structure layer including in combination a layer formed of a synthetic resin material incorporating excellent gas barrier property and a layer formed of the PET. However, the adhering strength between the layer formed of a material having an excellent gas barrier property and the layer formed of the PET is weak or insufficient because of the difference of cooling shrinkage factors at a molding time between the layer formed of the material having excellent gas barrier property and the layer formed of the PET and of insufficient compatibility, bonding strength and reaction strength between the material having excellent gas barrier property and the PET. Thus, the mechanical strength of the bottle-shaped container is not only insufficient, but also gas escaped from the content of the container such as, for example, a carbon dioxide gas is accumulated between the layer formed of the material having excellent gas barrier property and the intermediate layer formed of the PET as its drawbacks.

In other words, when a preformed injection molded piece is covered with a surface layer in which both inner and outer surfaces of an intermediate layer formed of a material having high gas barrier property have been covered with the PET, the surface layer and the intermediate layer are generally bonded relatively strongly in the state of the preformed injection molded state. However, when the preformed piece is further blow-molded to biaxially orient the preformed piece into a bottle-shaped container, the bonding strength between the surface layer and the intermediate layer be-

comes extremely weak due to the difference of the degrees of orientations between the surface layer and the intermediate layer of the bottle-shaped container.

Accordingly, the carbon dioxide gas penetrated into the inner surface layer is readily accumulated between the inner surface layer and the intermediate layer as described above. In this manner an exfoliation between the inner surface layer and the intermediate layer not only occurs over the entire bottle shaped container, but also the body of the container tends to largely swell, since the body of the container should endure against the internal pressure thus produced of the container merely by the outer surface layer and the intermediate layer due to the internal pressure, due to the internal pressure of the container, resulting in remarkable deterioration in the external appearance of the bottle-shaped container as a merchandise.

A resin material which has excellent gas barrier property generally has a drawback such that the material is whitened in contact with water content. When a gap is formed between the inner surface layer and the intermediate layer of the bottle-shaped container as described above, the intermediate layer is whitened due to the water content which is penetrated even in a very small amount into the gap formed between the inner surface layer and the intermediate layer, thereby causing a difficulty in the loss of a transparency of the bottle-shaped container.

Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to provide a hollow blow-molded bottle-shaped container of a biaxially oriented polyethylene terephthalate resin which can eliminate all the aforementioned drawbacks and disadvantages of the conventional bottle-shaped container and which can maintain extremely high bonding strength between a surface layer and an intermediate layer of the container while remaining a gas barrier property.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a hollow blow-molded bottle-shaped container of a biaxially oriented polyethylene terephthalate resin which does not cause an exfoliation between the surface layer and the intermediate layer.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a hollow blow-molded bottle-shaped container of a biaxially oriented polyethylene terephthalate resin which can incorporate extremely high mechanical strength.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a hollow bottle-shaped container of a biaxially oriented polyethylene terephthalate resin which can simply control the temperature ast the blow-molding time.

Still another object of the invention is provide a hollow bottle-shaped container of a biaxially oriented polyethylene terephthalate resin which can maintain high transpacency even with the surface layers and the intermediate layer.

The above and other related objects and features of the invention will be apparent from a reading of the following description of the disclosure found in the accompanying drawings and the novelty thereof pointed out in the appended claims.

Fig. 1 is a view showing a preferred embodiment of the bottle-shaped container having two-layer structure including an outer layer formed of the mixture material of the PET and xylene group containing polyamide resin and an inner layer formed of the PET; and

Fig. 2 is a view showing another preferred embodiment of the bottle-shaped container having two-layer structure including an outer layer formed of the PET and an inner layer formed of the material containing the mixture resin material of the PET and xylene group-containing polyamide resin.

The present invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

A hollow blow-molded bottle-shaped container having excellent gas barrier property of a biaxially oriented mixture resin material without a multilayer structure will be first described as a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

This bottle-shaped container is blow-molded by a biaxial orientation with a mixture resin material which includes a PET and a xylene group-containing polyamide resin. The mixture resin material contains 5 to 30% by weight of xylene group-containing polyamide resin to the PET.

The gas barrier property of the bottle-shaped container thus prepared is performed by the operation of the xylene group-containing polyamide resin mixed at the ratio of 5 to 30% by weight to the PET. The higher the mixture ratio of the xylene group-containing polyamide resin to the PET is in this range, the higher the gas barrier property of the bottle-shaped container becomes.

This xylene group-containing polyamide resin is one of synthetic resin materials having the highest gas barrier property, has excellent physical property maintaining resistance against the content contained in the bottle-shaped container and another physical property similar to that of the PET at the molding temperature.

If the mixture ratio of the xylene group-containing polyamide resin is, however, excessively high such as large than 30% by weight to the PET, the wall structure of the bottle-shaped container becomes a laminated foil structure, thereby causing a trend of occurring an exfoliation between the foil layers of the bottle-shaped container. Thus, the mechanical strength such as the wear resistance and the internal pressure resistance against the content contained in the container are abruptly deteriorated, and the moldability of the bottle-shaped container is largely aggravated.

Therefore, when a bottle-shaped container in which a content liquid is hermetically contained in the bottle-shaped container thus formed and not so required for high gas barrier property is blow-molded, it is preferred to mold the bottle-shaped container with a mixture resin material which is mixed with approx. 5 to 10% by weight of the xylene group-containing polyamide resin to the PET. On the other hand, when a bottle-shaped container in which the liquid is contained in the container required for high gas barrier property is blow-molded, it is preferred to mold the bottle-shaped container with a mixture resin material which is mixed with the xylene group-containing polyamide resin of as high as possible within 30% by weight to the PET in the degree for not deteriorating the mechanical strength of the wall of the bottle-shaped container to be blow-molded.

An example of the measured values relative to the gas barrier property of the bottle-shaped container will be listed below.

When a bottle-shaped container having

0.45mm of wall thickness of the body is molded only with 37g of the PET the penetrated quantity of oxygen through the bottle-shaped container was 0.0180 cc per day. When a bottle-shaped container thus molded with a mixture resin material which was mixed with 20% by weight of xylene group-containing polyamide resin to the PET, the penetrated quantity of oxygen through the bottle-shaped container was 0.001 cc per day. It was clear that the bottle-shaped container molded only with the mixture resin material which was thus mixed with the xylene group-containing resin exhibited very high gas barrier property.

When the penetrated quantities of carbon dioxide gas of both the bottle-shaped containers thus molded were measured under the pressurized state with the conditions of the same bottle-shaped containers only with the PET and with the mixture resin material as above, the content of the carbon dioxide gas in the bottle-shaped container was reduced by 23.3% in the case that the bottle-shaped container molded only with the PET was allowed to stand for 60 days at 4°C of the temperature of the atmosphere. On the other hand, the content of the

carbon dioxide gas in the bottle-shaped container was reduced only by 14.8% in the case that the bottle-shaped container molded with the mixture resin material which contains 20% by weight of xylene group-containing polyamide resin to the PET in the case that the bottle-shaped container thus molded was allowed to stand for 60 days at 4°C of the atmosphere.

From the above experiments, it became clear that the bottle-shaped container thus molded with the above mixture resin material provided high gas barrier property even to the content of carbon dioxide gas in the bottle-shaped container.

With respect to the reasons that the bottle-shaped container of the invention thus molded exhibits high gas barrier property as described above, a variety of factors can be considered as follows: From the fact that when the mixture ratio of the xylene group-containing polyamide resin to the PET is excessively increased, it is considered that the wall structure of the bottle-shaped container thus molded is progressively converted into laminated foil structure so that an exfoliation between the laminated foils tends to occur, the xylene group-containing polyamide resin mixed with the PET acts to arrange the molecular array of the PET in multilayer foils and to strengthen the bonding between the molecules of the PET forming the respective layers, thereby forming the wall structure of the bottle-shaped container in a multilayer structure, with the result that the high gas barrier property can be performed.

As described above, the xylene group-containing polyamide resin serves to arrange the molecules of the PET in laminar state and to strengthen the bonding between the molecules of the PET, but to also weaken the bonding strength between the molecules forming the respective layers and hence the molecules between the layer. Accordingly, when the mixture ratio of the xylene group-containing polyamide resin is excessively large, an exfoliation between the layers of the bottle-shaped container tends to occur, thereby deteriorating the mechanical strength of the bottle-shaped container, and since the respective layers of the bottle-shaped container are molded along the orienting direction of the blow-molding, the moldability of the bottle-shaped container is aggravated.

A bottle-shaped container molded with a mixture resin material which is mixed with the xylene group-containing polyamide resin in the PET in a two-layer structure according to the present invention will now be described.

As shown in Fig. 1, the bottle-shaped container with this two-layer structure is formed with an inner layer 4 formed of the PET and an outer layer 5 formed of a mixture resin material which is mixed with the PET and xylene group-containing

polyamide resin. The mixture ratio of the xylene group-containing polyamide resin with the PET in the bottle-shaped container of this embodiment is in a range of 5 to 50% by weight of the xylene group-containing polyamide resin to the PET, and preferably 10 to 30% with 20% being the best value.

Fig. 2 shows another preferred embodiment of the bottle-shaped container according to the invention. This bottle-shaped container has, on the other hand, an inner layer 6 formed of a mixture resin material which is mixed with the PET and xylene group-containing polyamide resin and an outer layer 7 formed of the PET in a two layer structure, contrary to the relationship in Fig. 1.

As described above, the bottle-shaped container with the two-layer wall structure thus constructed exhibits very high gas barrier property and extremely high bonding strength between the layers. Therefore, mechanical strength of the bottle-shaped container of the invention can be enhanced. Even if the layers of the bottle-shaped container employ different resin materials, the temperature of molding the bottle-shaped container can be simply controlled. Since the xylene group-containing polyamide resin has relatively high transparency, the bottle-shaped container having high transparency can be provided.

According to the experiments, it was confirmed that the penetrated quantity of oxygen gas of the bottle-shaped container molded with the material which was mixed with 20% by weight of the xylene group-containing polyamide resin could be reduced to 1/10 of that of the bottle-shaped container molded only with the PET single layer, and the penetrated quantity of carbon dioxide gas thereof could be reduced to 1/2 of the latter bottle-shaped container.

A method of molding a bottle-shaped container with the above multilayer wall structure can be considered in a variety of processes. Generally, it is preferred that a preformed injection-molded piece of a bottomed cylindrical shape of wall structure having first and second layers is injection-molded and the preformed piece thus molded is then blow-molded by a biaxial orientation into a bottle-shaped container.

50 Claims

1. A method of making a hollow multi-layer bottle-shaped container having one layer (4 or 7) formed of a biaxially-orientated polyethylene terephthalate resin and another layer (5 or 6) formed of a synthetic resin material which has gas barrier properties to reduce the leakage of fluid from the container, the two layers being molded

onto each other so as to form a strong bond between them in an injection-moulding step for the production of a preformed injection-moulded parison of generally cylindrical wall shape, whereafter the parison is blow-moulded to produce a biaxially-orientated bottle-shaped container, characterised in that, to prevent any substantial weakening of the bond between the two layers during the blow-moulding step, the layer (5 or 6) of synthetic resin

material comprises a mixture of polyethylene terephthalate resin and 5 to 50% by weight of a xylene derivative polyamide resin.

5 2. A method according to claim 1, characterised in that the layer (5 or 6) having gas barrier properties comprises 10 to 30% by weight of a xylene derivative polyamide resin.

10 3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterised in that the layer (5 or 6) having gas barrier properties comprises about 20% by weight of a xylene derivative polyamide resin.

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FIG. 1.

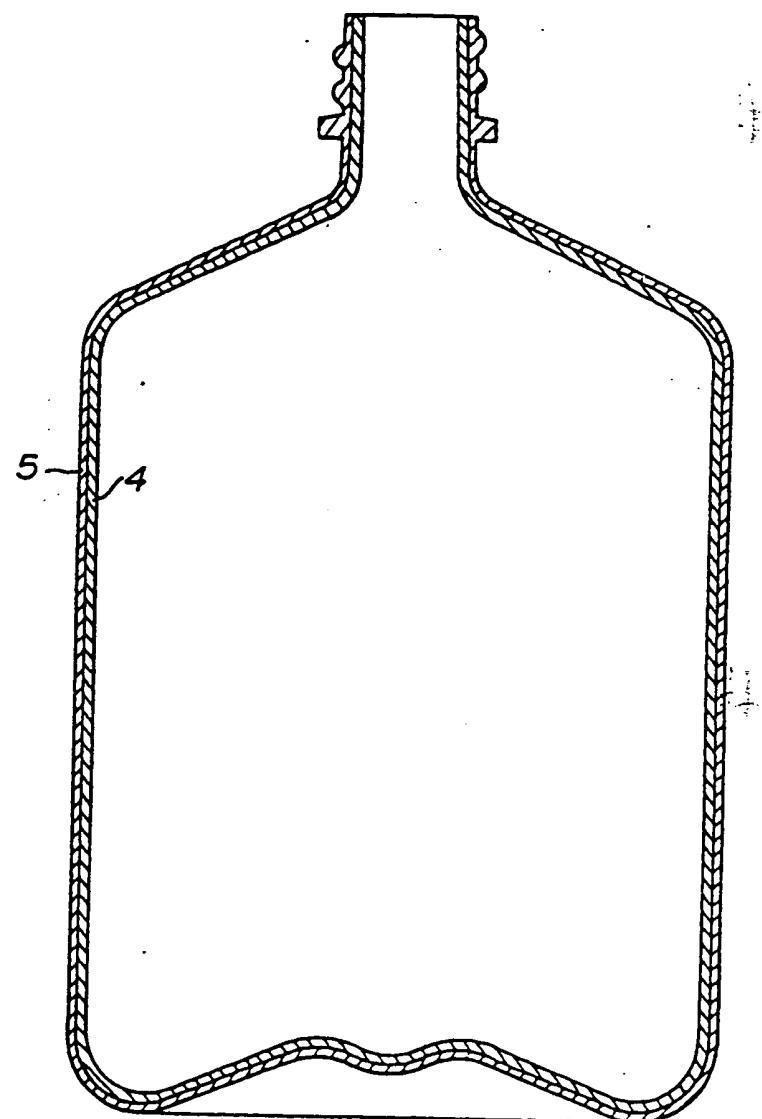


FIG. 2.

